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Message Text

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15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 110918
P 171000Z AUG 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1197

S E C R E T USNATO 3858

EXDIS

SALT

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: SALT: ALSOP COLUMN AND DOD PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET MIRV TESTING

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS SECDEF

REF: (A) SECDEF (OASD: PA) 3447, DTG 152317Z AUGUST 73,
(B) USNATO 1337, (C) USNATO 2329

1. REF A INDICATES ALSOP COLUMN AUGUST 15 STATED THAT USSR HAS UNDERWAY INTENSIVE PROGRAM ON ADVANCED MIRV TECHNOLOGY. ALSO ACCORDING REF A, ASD/PA COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE UNDERWAY A VERY INTENSIVE TESTING PROGRAM ON THEIR ADVANCED MIRV TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING FLIGHT TESTS, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONDUCTED PREVIOUS TESTS, AND THAT U.S. HAS BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF SOVIET MIRV-RELATED TESTS FOR SOME MONTHS.

2. IN SALT CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE TOLD THE NATO ALLIES THAT VERIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT IN A MIRV-LIMITATION AGREEMENT AND THAT U.S. ABILITY TO VERIFY SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON DETECTION OF TESTING (PRIOR TO ATTAINMENT OF A SOVIET MIRV CAPABILITY). WE MIGHT THEREFORE ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORTED ALSOP STORY AND THE ASD COMMENTS ONCE THESE APPEAR OR
SECRET

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ARE ALLUDED TO IN EUROPE. QUESTIONS MIGHT INCLUDE WHETHER U.S. CAN NOW PURSUE A MIRV-LIMITATION AGREEMENT COVERING LAND-BASED ICBMS.

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3. REQUEST CABLED TEXT OF AUGUST 15 ALSOP COLUMN,
TOGETHER WITH CLASSIFIED OR UNCLASSIFIED GUIDANCE ON IT
AND ASD/ISA COMMENTS FOR OUR USE WITH THE ALLIES AS
APPROPRIATE. AS TO POSSIBLE PRESS QUERIES, WOULD WASHINGTON
PREFER THAT WE REFER QUESTIONS TO DOD?
RUMSFELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

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